

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 04488 090305Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /064 W

----- 052102

R 090200Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6291

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 4488

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CE

SUBJECT:PM'S STATEMENT ON U.S. -SRI LANKA RELATIONS

REF: A) COLOMBO 4399 B) STATE 298126

1. SUMMARY: AT NOVEMBER 29 CEREMONY AT WHICH BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP WAS ISSUED PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE AND POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTER KUMARASURIAR REFERRED TO US-SRI LANKA RELATIONSHIP IN COMPLIMENTARY TERMS. LATTER'S STRESS WAS ON ANTI-COLONIAL NATURE OF REVOLUTION AND IDEALS FOR WHICH U.S. STANDS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN INFORMAL, OFF-THE-CUFF REMARKS AT THE CEREMONY NOVEMBER 29 IN WHICH SHE ISSUED A BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP, PRIME MINISTER SIRMAVO BANDARANAIKE, SPEAKING IN SINHALA, BRIEFLY COMMENTED ON THE "COOPERATIVE" RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. SHE MENTIONED AMERICAN ECONOMIC AID AND THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO SRI LANKA AND EXPRESSED HER HOPE THAT THE RESOURCES OF THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SHE ALSO SAID, ACCORDING TOTHE PRESS REPORT, THAT THE US WAS A POWERFUL NATION AND "THOUGH SRI LANKA DIFFERED SOMETIMES FROM THE US OWING TO SRI LANKA'S POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT, STILL THE TWO COUNTRIES PURSUED THE SAME GOALS OF PEACE AND CO-EXISTENCE."

3. IN A LONGER AND OBVIOUSLY PREPARED SPEECH, MINISTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COLOMB 04488 090305Z

OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS C. KUMARASURIAR CONCENTRATED

ON THE ADMIRATION OF THE SRI LANKANS FOR THE ANTI-COLONIAL CHARACTER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. HE CALLED IT A MODEL FOR ALL COLONIAL WARS EVEN TODAY. IN A MUTED REFERENCE TO THE COMMUNIAL DIFFICULTIES FACING HIS OWN TAMIL COMMUNITY IN SRI LANKA, KUMARASURIAR ALSO PRAISED THE SUCCESS OF THE U.S. IN FINDING "UNITY AMIDST DIVERSITY." CALLING THE U.S. THE "SUPREME CUTTING EDGE OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION EVERYWHERE" (AN ENGINEER, HE APPEARED TO REFER HERE PRIMARILY TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT), HE SAID THAT "WE IN SRI LANKA CONSIDER OUR RELATIONSHIP, ALTHOUGH OUR TWO COUNTRIES DIFFER IN MANY WAYS, AS A VERY IMPORTANT LINK IN THE PURSUIT OF WORLD PEACE."

4. IN DECEMBER 1 EDITORIAL , ATHTHA, SINHALA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY/MOSCOW WING, WARNED THAT THE STAMP ISSUANCE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS APPROVAL OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM OF THE U.S.

ALTHOUGH ATHTHA SAID THAT THERE WAS NO HARM IN SALUTING THE US INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED FOR A GREAT CAUSE AND WAS AN IMPORTANT EPOSIDE IN HISTORY, THE PAPER WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WAS A SUSPICION THAT THE OBJECT OF ISSUING THE STAMP WAS "TO PAY SPECIAL HOMAGE" TO THE U.S.

5. COMMENT: THE PAEAN OF PRAISE FROM THE PM AND KUMARASURIAR WAS WELCOME AND WAS WELL-PUBLICIZED BY THE LOCAL MEDIA. IT WAS A SIGNIFICANT GESTURE ON THE PART OF THE GSL TO ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP, WHICH BOTH THE PM AND KUMARASURIAR STRESSED WAS THE FIRST EVER COMMEMORATING THE FOUNDING OF ANOTHER NATION. HOWEVER, TOO MUCH SHOULD NOT BE READ INTO THE ACT AS A POLITICAL GESTURE (DESPITE ATHTHA'S FEAR) BEYOND THE EXPRESSION OF AN HONEST ADMIRATION WHICH THE POLITICIANS OF THIS COUNTRY, OF ALL IDEOLOGICAL STRIPES, HAVE ALWAYS HAD FOR THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION. SRI LANKAN POLITICIANS FIND IT MORE PRUDENT TO PRIASE THE AMERICA OF TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO THAN RISK THEIR NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS BY MORE CONTEMPORARY REFERENCES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 COLOMB 04488 090305Z

REED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB04488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760454-0987
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761259/aaaabyxg.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COLOMBO 4399, 76 STATE 298126
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM'S STATEMENT ON U.S. -SRI LANKA RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, US, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006